NWS FORM E-19 (COVER)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

REPORT ON RIVER GAGE STATION

REVISED, PRINTED DATES: 10/14/2011, 10/14/2011

LOCATION: Portola STREAM: Middle Fork Feather River HSA: REV BASIN: Feather River REFERENCES: CADWR Rating Table 34, Middle FK Feather R NR Portola, 9/20/2011 Correspondence w/CADWR (Red Bluff, Beckwourth, Sacramento) Personnel Correspondence w/City of Portola Public Works and Town Manager Correspondence w/Plumas Co. Emergency Manager De Lorme XMaps V4.5 Google Earth and Google Maps NWS Reno Monthly Reports of River and Flood Conditions (NWS Form E5) USGS Antelope Valley 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1981 USGS Blairsden 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1972 USGS Calpine 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1981 USGS Clio 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1981 USGS Floods of December 1964 in the Far Western States

USGS Floods of Jan-Feb 1963 in CA & NV

USGS Peak Flow Data, Middle Fk Feather nr Clio, WY 1926-1979 USGS Peak Flow Data, Middle Fk Feather nr Portola, WY 1969-1980

USGS Portola 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1972

USGS Reconnaissance Peak 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, 1972 USGS Water Resources Data, Middle Fk Feather nr Clio, CA; WY 1926-1979 USGS Water Resources Data, Middle Fk Feather nr Portola, WY 1969-1980

ABBREVIATIONS:

BM - bench mark

DS - downstream

US - upstream

MSRC - Mississippi River Commission

HW - high water

HW - low water

HW - right bank

HW - reference mark

HW - mean low water

HW - mean tide

HW - water quality

HW - reference mark

HW - reference mark

HW - reference mark

HW - reference mark

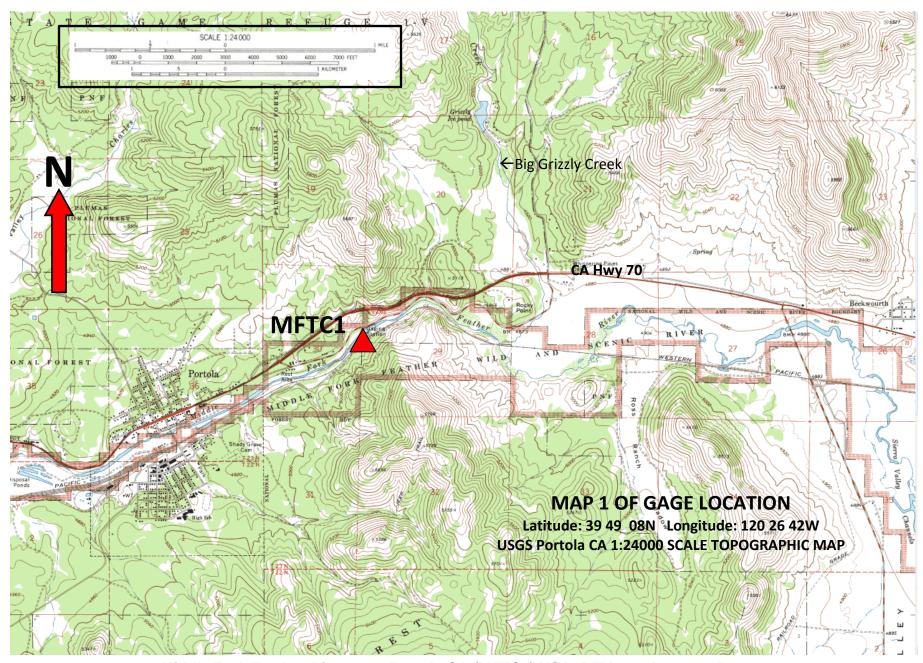
HW - International Boundary and Water Comm.

HW - Mississippi River Commission

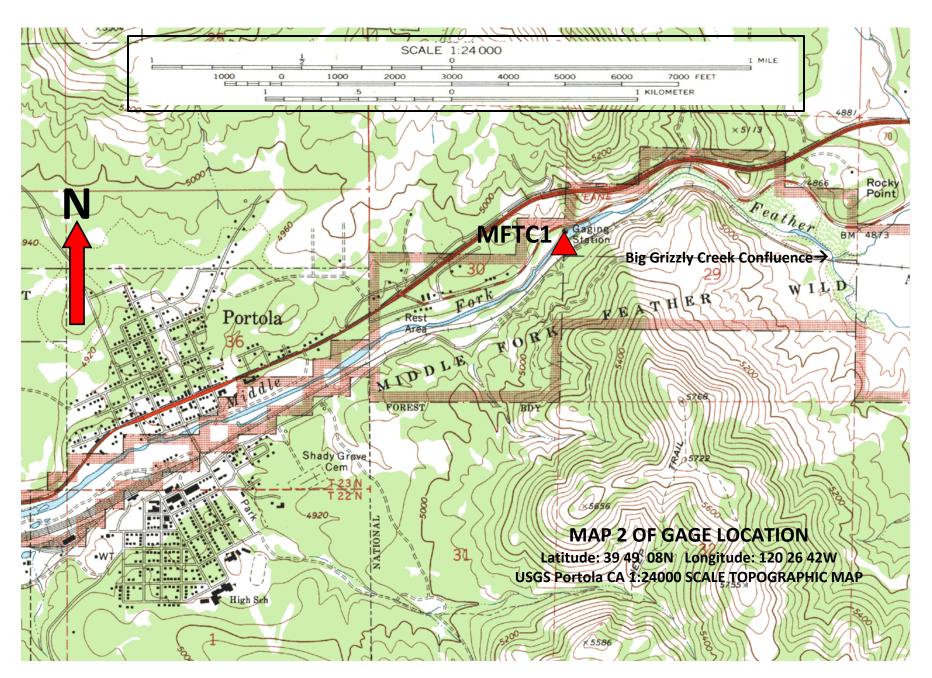
HW - Mississippi River Commission

HORC - Mississippi River RP - reference point

LOCATION IDENTIFICATION: MFTC1 NWS INDEX NUMBER. USGS NUMBER: 11392100



Middle Fork Feather River near Portola CA (MFTC1) HSA: REV October 2011 Page 2



Middle Fork Feather River near Portola CA (MFTC1) HSA: REV October 2011 Page 3

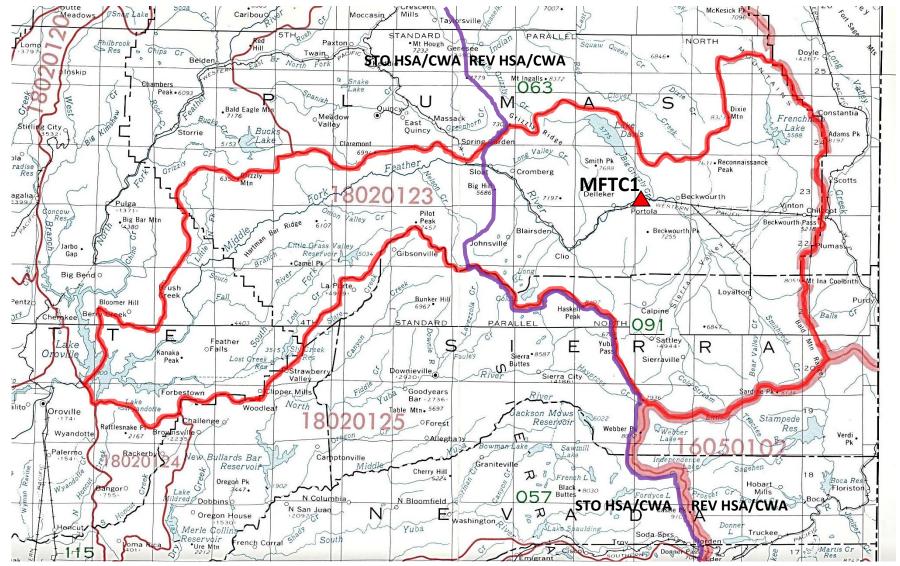


Aerial view of Middle Fork Feather River, from just west of gage east to the Sierra Valley. View is to ENE.

Middle Fork Feather River near Portola CA (MFTC1) HSA: REV October 2011 Page 4



Aerial view of Middle Fork Feather River Valley, from Portola east to the Sierra Valley. View is to ENE.



Middle Fork Feather River Basin. Purple line is boundary between REV and STO HSA/CWA.

MFTC1 Gage Reach: Confluence of Big Grizzly Ck below Beckwourth to confluences of Willow and Sulphur Creeks near Clio CA.

Flood Watch/Warning Product Reach based on MFTC1 forecasts: Beckwourth to Sloat CA

BENCHMARKS

EVATION OF GAGE ZERO: 4850.000 VERTICAL DATUM: NGVD1929
LEVELING AGENCY AND DATE: CA DWR CHECKBAR:
RATING AGENCY: CA DWR ELEVATION OF GAGE ZERO: 4850.000

GAGE ZERO DATUM BENCHMARK DESCRIPTION

UNK Benchmark info for MFTC1 was unavailable as of 10/2011.

GAGES

DCP INTERVAL: 60

TELEM NESS ID: CA304120 TYPE OF TELEMETRY: alert
OWNER: STATECA OWNER: Assoc
REPORT TIME: 00:39:00 PHONE NUMBER:
INTERVAL: INTERVAL:

PAYOR/COST OF LINE: Assoc / \$

GAGE TYPE	OWNER	MAINTENANCE	BEGAN	ENDED	GAGE LOCATION/REMARKS
CREST STAG	USGS	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980	On RB, 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
FLOAT	USGS	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980	On RB, 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
IS STAFF	USGS	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980	On RB, 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
OS STAFF	USGS	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980	On RB, 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
RECORDER	USGS	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980	On RB, 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
DCP	State DWR	State DWR	08/28/2006		Design Analysis 522+ Waterlog DCP driven by shaft encoder. In gage house on RB just off Rocky Point Rd; 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
IS STAFF	State DWR	State DWR	08/28/2006		In gage house on RB just off Rocky Point Rd; 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
OS STAFF	State DWR	State DWR	08/28/2006		On RB, 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola. 3 staff sections: 1.0-6.92'; 7.2-12.0'; 7.4-15.0'.
RECORDER	State DWR	State DWR	08/28/2006		Design Analysis 522+ Waterlog recorder driven by shaft encoder. In gage house on RB just off Rocky Point Rd; 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.
SHFT ENCDR	State DWR	State DWR	08/28/2006		Vaisala Model 436B encoder drives DCP & recorder. In gage house on RB just off Rocky Point Rd; 1.0 MI DS of confluence w/Grizzly Ck; 1.5 MI US of S Gulling St Br in Portola.

HISTORY

TYPE OF GAGE	OWNER	STARTING DATE	ENDING DATE
CREST STAG	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980
FLOAT	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980
IS STAFF	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980
OS STAFF	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980
RECORDER	USGS	10/01/1968	09/30/1980
DCP	State DWR	08/28/2006	
IS STAFF	State DWR	08/28/2006	
OS STAFF	State DWR	08/28/2006	
RECORDER	State DWR	08/28/2006	
SHFT ENCDR	State DWR	08/28/2006	

ZERO ELEVATION
----4850.000

CRESTS*

FLOOD STAGE: 8.50 ACTION STAGE: 7.00 BANKFULL STAGE: 9.00 FLOOD FLOW: 4090 ACTION FLOW: 2330

DATE OF CREST		. ,	FLOW (CFS)	FROM HIGH WATERMARKS				
01/21/1969			7640		 	Measured stg, 10.18'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained	using CADWR
01/25/1970	UNDEF	9.11	4970			Measured stg, 8.81'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
03/27/1971	UNDEF	10.07	6580			Measured stg, 9.64'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
01/18/1973	UNDEF	7.32	2660			Measured stg, 6.88'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
03/31/1974	UNDEF	8.17	3650			Measured stg, 7.79'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
03/27/1975	UNDEF	7.74	3120			Measured stg, 7.42'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
01/17/1978	UNDEF	7.73	3110				Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
01/14/1980	UNDEF	9.56	5690			Measured stg, 9.42'. RT34 (9/20/2011).	Stg obtained u	sing CADWR
03/17/2011	11:00	9.03	4851			Measured crest.		

*NOTE: All crest stages were converted to from crest flows using CADWR Rating Number 34, in use 10/14/2011. Actual measured crests are noted in remarks. Only annual crests above 2000 cfs are included.

LOW WATER RECORDS*

DATE OF LOW WATER	STAGE (ft)	FLOW (CFS)	REMARKS
10/04/1968	1.56	6	5.6 cfs, 1/4-5/1968 (Stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34)
09/11/1969	1.44	3	3.1 cfs, 9/11-12/1969 (Stg est, CADWR Rtg 34)
09/18/1970	1.55	5	5.3 cfs, stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34 (9/20/2011)
07/09/1972	1.54	5	Stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34 (9/20/2011)
08/08/1973	1.51	4	4.3 cfs; stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34 (9/20/2011)
09/24/1976	1.44	3	3.1 cfs, stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34 (9/20/2011)
10/01/1977	1.44	3	3.1 cfs, 10/1-4/1977. Stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34
09/15/1978	1.45	3	3.3 cfs, 9/15-16/1978. Stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34
09/04/1979	1.51	4	4.3 cfs. Stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34 (9/20/2011)
08/26/1980	1.71	10	8/26-30 & 9/5-6/1980. Stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34
10/04/2007	1.64	8	7.7 cfs; stg est w/CADWR Rtg 34 (9/20/2011)
07/17/2009	1.60	6	7/17,18,30,31/2009. Measured stage.
10/07/2009	1.62	7	6.5 cfs. Measured stage.

*NOTE: All stages listed were converted from low flows using CADWR Rating Number 34, in use 10/14/2011. All flows are daily averages. Only annual daily minimum low flows below 10 cfs are included.

CONDITIONS AFFECTING FLOW

MILES ABOVE MOUTH: DRAINAGE AREA: 586.0 POOL STAGE:

STREAM BED: Gravel, cobbles, small boulders; large boulders on DS RB

REACH: **NOTE**:

<u>Gage Reach</u>: Confluence of Big Grizzly Ck below Beckwourth to confluences of Willow and Sulphur Creeks near Clio CA .
Flood Watch/Warning Product Reach based on MFTC1 forecasts:

Beckwourth to Sloat CA

REGULATION: Flow partially regulated by Lake Davis (Grizzly Valley Dam on Big Grizzly Ck,
Max Storage 83000 AF) beginning in 1966 and Frenchman Lake
(Frenchman Dam, on Little Last Chance Ck, Max Storage 55477 AF) beginning in 1961.

DIVERSION: Many diversions in Sierra Valley for irrigation.

WINTER: Subject to freezing during extreme cold periods mid-winter.

TOPOGRAPHY: Narrow (~0.2-0.4 mi. wide) deep (~200-500') canyon from Rocky Pt. (~1mi above gage) to above Portola (~0.8 mi blo gage).

Above Rocky Point, Sierra Valley is broad, flat, marshy; river is braided, subject to ponding. Channel narrows again below Portola to Clio.

REMARKS: Channel straight for about 1250 ft. below and 800 ft above gage. Channel narrows at control about 200 ft. below gage. Subject to beaver dams at all except high flows.

DAMAGE

STAGE AREAS AFFECTED

- 7.00 Monitor Stage, Approx. 2350 cfs. No flooding in between Beckwourth and Sloat, CA.
- 7.50 Some areas of very minor out of bank flow in reach between Beckwourth and Sloat California. Approx. 2850 cfs.
- 8.00 Some areas of minor out of bank flow in reach between Beckwourth and Sloat California...including Portola. Approximately 3440 cfs.
- 8.50 Flood Stage, some minor lowland flooding in reach between Beckwourth and Sloat California, including Portola. Approx. 4100 cfs.
- 9.00 Minor flooding of lowlands, rural roads, agricultural areas and some low structures between Beckwourth and Sloat California, including Portola. In Portola...water as high as 2 ft below CA Hwy 70 road surface. Nearing Sleepy Pines Motel and just below propane tanks on Hwy 70. About 1.5 to 2 feet below foundations of Veterans Hall and low homes along river near Hwy 70. South end of West Street in Portola flooded, nearing foundations of lowest homes. Sewage ponds in Portola nearing capacity. Portion of CA Hwy 89 near Clio begins to flood. Approx. 4800 cfs. Like flood of 3/17/2011.
- 9.50 Moderate flooding of lowlands...roads and low-lying structures in reach from Beckwourth to Sloat, California, including Portola. In Portola...Sleepy Pines Motel on CA Hwy 70 begins to experience some minor flooding. Water near bottom of large propane tanks along Hwy 70. South end of West Street flooded, nearing lowest homes. Sewage ponds in Portola at capacity. River within about a foot of foundation of Veterans Hall and some low homes along river. CA Hwy 89 near Clio flooded. Approx. 5600 cfs, like flood of 1/14/1980.
- 10.00 Moderate flooding of lowlands, structures and roads from Beckwourth to Sloat, California, including Portola. Sleepy Pines Motel and other low structures along river in Portola flood. Evacuation of homes on south end of West Street begins. Sewage ponds in Portola may exceed capacity and may need to release to river. River near foundation of Veterans Hall in Portola. CA Hwy 89 near Clio flooded. About 6450 cfs. Like flood of 3/27/1971.
- 10.50 Major...near record flooding of lowlands...roads...railroads...homes...businesses and structures along river from Beckwourth to Sloat, CA, including Portola, with significant damage. Approx. 7400 cfs; like record flood of January 21 1969 (7640 cfs).
- 11.00 Major...record flooding of homes...businesses...structures...roads...railroads...bridges from Beckwourth to Sloat, CA, including Portola. Approx. 8400 cfs. Before gage record..this flow was likely exceeded during floods of 2/21/1927...3/26/1928...4/6/1952...12/23/1955...2/1/1963...12/24/1964... 1/2/1997. In 1/2/1997 flood...extensive damage (over \$90 million in 1997 dollars in eastern Plumas Co.) to homes...bridges..roads and railroads. Flooding caused a 50 ft section of CA Hwy 70 between Blairsden and Sloat to collapse.

RIVER STAGE DATA

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	13-		
	12-		
11 00 Main annual fluiding of home business at markets and a william	11-		
11.00 - Majorrecord flooding of homesbusinessesstructuresroadsrailroadsbridges from Beckwourth to Sloat, CA, including Portola. Approx. 8400 cfs.		10.00	01/21/1969
		10.62	01/21/1969
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and Sloat to collapse.			
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cfs).	ii		
10.00 - Moderate flooding of lowlands, structures, roads Beckwourth to Sloat, CA, including	ii		
Portola. Sleepy Pines Motel and lowest structures near river in Portola flood.			
Evacuation of homes S end of West St begins. River near foundation of Veterans Hall.	i 8-i	8.17	03/31/1974
Sewage ponds in Portola may exceed capacity and may need to release to river.			
In Portola. CA 89 near Clio floods. About 6450 cfs, Like 3/27/1971 flood.			
9.50 - Moderate flooding of lowlandsroads and very low-lying structures in reach from		7.74	03/27/1975
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REACH: Gage: Confluence of Big Grizzly Ck below Beckwourth to confluences of Willow and Sulphur Creeks near Clio CA;

Flood Watch/Warning Product Reach for Middle Fork Feather based on MFTC1 forecasts: Beckwourth->Sloat CA.

ELEVATION ZERO: 4850.00

CONTACTS

SQ	CONTACT/REMARKS	PHONE
1	CA DWR Red Bluff CA dables@water.ca.gov, clements@water.ca.gov Wayne Ables is engineer who does gage measurements and gage maintenance; John Clements is supervisor (530-529-7323).	1-530-529-7321
2	CA DWR Beckwourth CA jscarbor@water.ca.gov Jim Scarborough is Middle Fork Feather River Watermaster and is responsible for gage maintenance.	1-530-832-5161
3	Plumas Co. Emergency Manager jerrysipe@countyofplumas.com Jerry Sipe is Plumas Co EM, very knowledgable about flood impacts on the Middle Fork Feather.	1-530-283-6355
4	City of Portola Pub Works Todd Roberts is Public Works Manager, City of Portola.	1-530-832-6804
5	Plumas Co. Sheriff sheriff@pcso.net Greg Hagwood is Plumas County Sheriff.	1-530-283-6375
6	City of Portola Manager 1.tigan@ci.portola.ca.us Leslie Tigan is City Manager.	1-530-832-6801
7	USGS Redding USGS Redding operated MFTC1 gage from 1969-1980 and is still knowledgable about the Middle Fork Feather River.	1-530-246-5282

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: Gage Location; Low Flow

Top: US view (ENE); Bottom: DS view (SW) from near gage on RB; 9/19/2011, stage 1.90', flow ~18 cfs. (Photos above provided by Wayne Ables, CA DWR Engineer, Red Bluff, CA)



Top: US view (ENE); Bottom: DS view (SW); from near gage on RB. 3/17/2011, 1245PM; Stage: 9.01', Flow: ~4820 cfs



Views of MFTC1 gage house 3/17/2011, 1245PM; Stage: 9.01', Flow: ~4820 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: Gage Location; Equipment AJAZIAY 🐠

Two views of equipment in MFTC1 gage house: Design Analysis 522+ Waterlog DCP & recorder (left) driven by Vaisala shaft encoder and float tape (center), battery is on right.

(Photos above provided taken 9/19/2011 by Wayne Ables, CA DWR Engineer, Red Bluff, CA)

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: Gage Location, Staff Gages

Left: Lower MFTC1 staff gage, range: 1.0'-6.92'. Right: Upper MFTC1 staff gage, range: 7.4'-15.0' (Middle staff visible behind and to left of upper staff). Photos above taken 9/19/2011, stage 1.90', flow ~18 cfs by Wayne Ables, CA DWR Engineer, Red Bluff, CA

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: Gage Location, Staff Gages



Middle MFTC1 staff gage, range: 7.2' to 12.0'. (9/19/2011 by Wayne Ables, CA DWR Engineer, Red Bluff, CA)



Upper MFTC1 staff gage, range: 7.4'-15.0', 3/17/2011, 1245PM; Stage: 9.01', Flow: 4820 cfs

Middle Fork Feather River near Portola CA (MFTC1) HSA: REV October 2011 Page 21

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: During 3/17/2011 High Water



Two views (top to NNE, bottom to NNW) of businesses/heavy equipment/storage facilities on RB in Portola. Structures est. ~2' to 3' above river level this day. Taken from across river at sewage ponds on LB; 3/17/2011, 1:40PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.99'/4790 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: During 3/17/2011 High Water



View ESE (US) toward Portola and Beckwourth Peak (7252', in background) from RB, @ CA Hwy 70 Mile Marker 75; across river from sewage ponds. 3/17/2011, 2:45PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.



View WSW (DS) from RB, @ CA Hwy 70 Mile Marker 75. 3/17/2011, 2:45PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: During 3/17/2011 High Water



View W (DS) from RB, @ CA Hwy 70 Mile Marker 75, DS. Propane tanks at center; Sleepy Pines Motel at right center. 3/17/2011, 2:45PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.



View to N from sewage ponds across river; note propane tanks at center, Sleepy Pines Motel at center right. 3/17/2011, 1:40PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.99'/4790 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: During 3/17/2011 High Water





Propane tanks surrounded by water; from near CA Hwy 70 Mile Marker 75. Top photo: view to WNW (looking DS). Bottom photo: view to ESE of tanks from near shoulder of CA Hwy 70. 3/17/2011, 2:45PM.

Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: During 3/17/2011 High Water



View N to Sleepy Pines Motel from near river bank, just N of CA Hwy 70, below grade. Motel possibly subject to flooding near 9.5 ft @ MFTC1 gage. 3/17/2011, 2:55PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.



View SW to S and E walls of Portola Veteran's Memorial Hall on RB. Hall possibly subject to flooding at about 10.5 ft @ MFTC1 gage. 3/17/2011, 2:30PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River near Portola, CA: During 3/17/2011 High Water

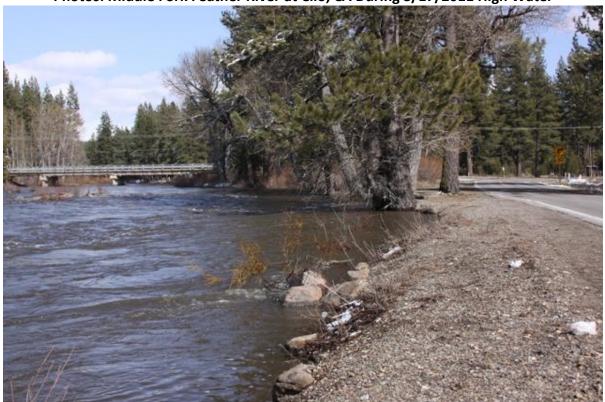


View US (ENE) at some of lowest home subject to flooding in Portola. From S end of West Street along RB, about 0.2 mi DS of Gulling Street Bridge in Portola. 3/17/2011, 2:15PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.



View of lowest home at S end of West Street, about 0.2 mi DS of Gulling Street Bridge in Portola. 3/17/2011, 2:15PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River at Clio, CA During 3/17/2011 High Water



Looking US along LB (ENE) to Clio Bridge from shoulder of CA Hwy 89 nr Mile Marker 4.5 near Clio turn off. 3/17/2011, 3:40PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.



CA Hwy 89 nr Mile Marker 4.5 nr Clio turn off, view to E. River is on left, portion of Clio Bridge visible left center. Note wet pavement where water floods road (due to culvert on right backed up to river) just beyond sign (right). Flooding occurred here earlier this day. 3/17/2011, 3:40PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.97'/4760 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River at Clio, CA During 3/17/2011 High Water

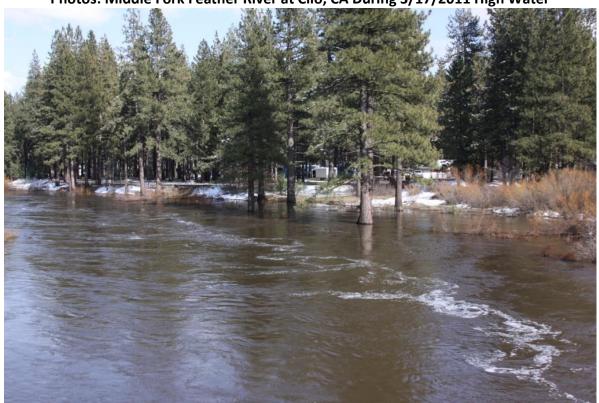


View DS (SW) along LB from Clio Bridge. Sharp bend to right in river just beyond trees. Town of Clio is out of picture to right. 3/17/2011, 4:05PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.96'/4745 cfs.



View DS (W) along RB from Clio Bridge. Center channel is on left, much of flow visible is overland flow. Town of Clio is out of picture to right. 3/17/2011, 4:05PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.96'/4745 cfs.

Photos: Middle Fork Feather River at Clio, CA During 3/17/2011 High Water



View US (E) along LB from Clio Bridge. Town of Clio is out of picture to left; note structures beyond trees. 3/17/2011, 4:05PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.96'/4745 cfs.



View of confluence of Sulfur Creek on LB, looking US from Clio Bridge toward the SE. 3/17/2011, 4:05PM. Stage/flow @MFTC1 gage: 8.96'/4745 cfs.